

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 015066  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:BMCKINLEY:JKB  
APPROVED BY EUR - REBARBOUR  
EUR/NE - RWOODS  
S/S SGOLDSMITH

-----064493 192029Z /47

R 191910Z JAN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

S E C R E T STATE 015066

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS:PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN SITUATION

1. IN LATE DECEMBER, THE DEPARTMENT ASKED SELECTED EUROPEAN EMBASSIES, INCLUDING USNATO AND USEC, TO PROVIDE THEIR ESTIMATE OF HOW HOST GOVERNMENTS OR ORGANIZATIONS SEE THE TREND OF EVENTS IN ITALY. SINCE THEN AMBASSADOR GARDNER HAS RETURNED TO WASHINGTON FOR HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS, WE HAVE ISSUED THE STATEMENT CONTAINED IN STATE 8082, AND A FORMAL GOVERNMENT CRISIS HAS OPENED IN ROME. IN OUR ANALYSIS, MOST LIKELY OUTCOME IS FOR THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS TO FORM ANOTHER GOVERNMENT ON A COMPROMISE BASIS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 015066

WHICH WILL MAKE SOME CONCESSION TO THE COMMUNISTS SHORT OF FULL PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT, WITH NEW ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ONLY AS A LAST RESORT. IF THE COMPROMISE IS REACHED, IT WILL BE ANOTHER STEP IN THE DIRECTION OF EVENTUAL FULL PARTICIPATION, WHICH COULD COME AS EARLY AS ONE YEAR FROM NOW.

2. WE ARE NOW ATTEMPTING TO ASSESS THE REACTIONS OF A LARGER GROUP OF EUROPEAN ALLIES. WITHOUT SOLICITING HOST GOVERNMENT VIEWS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING HOW YOU THINK IT OR ITS MEMBERS VIEW THE TREND OF EVENTS IN ITALY. SPECIFICALLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER OUR PERCEPTION

IS SHARED; WHETHER, IF SO, THE DUTCH AND BELGIANS ARE ALARMED (OR WOULD BE, FOLLOWING A GOVERNMENTAL CHANGE GIVING THE PCI GREATER ROLE); AND WHETHER THEY ARE INCLINED TO JOIN US OR OTHER ALLIES IN DOING ANYTHING ABOUT IT, INDIVIDUALLY, THROUGH THE EC, OR IN PARTY-TO-PARTY CHANNELS. YOUR OWN THOUGHTS WOULD ALSO BE WELCOME.

3. AT THIS STAGE, WE HAVE LIMITED OUR DIRECT APPROACH TO GOVERNMENTS IN LONDON, PARIS AND BONN, BUT WE MAY WISH TO EXPAND CONSULTATIONS LATER. WE HAVE AUTHORIZED AMBASSADOR LOWENSTEIN, IF HE BELIEVES IT APPROPRIATE, TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH PM THORN ON THIS SUBJECT. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** POLITICAL SITUATION, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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